



Student Listeners Support Wellness

By ANNE BRANDES, TINA HUANG and AMY LUM
Staff Writers

In the face of anxiety and loneliness, any Exeter student can knock on doors with blue signs to talk with Student Listeners—a unique support system by and for Exonians. Student Listeners are leaders within the dorm community specifically trained to assist others, via weekly Monday trainings and an annual retreat, held this year on Sept. 15.

Because Student Listeners are also students themselves, they are “front and center in everyday Academy life,” Associate Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Constance Morse said. Besides offering private support to their peers, Listeners can also connect students with appropriate Academy resources.

In the 1983-84 school year, former Academy counselor Patty Schwartz founded the Student Listener program. To kick off the new program, listeners sponsored several activities, including a stress workshop, to discuss under-addressed topics and to support their peers.

Since then, Student Listeners have continued to provide support to the Exeter community. Listeners also commit to attending weekly trainings on various issues pertinent to adolescence and Academy life according to Morse, a Student Listener Program Coordinator.

At the beginning, the Student Listener Program appointed between 60 and 65 Listeners. For the 2019-20 year, the program boasts 77 Listeners in addition to the Academy’s extensive support network. “Adolescents often seek help and support from peers first, so it makes good sense to have a program that helps to support those natural ‘helpers,’” Morse said.

When it first began, the Student Listener Program appointed between 60 and 65 Listen-

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Richard Blanco recites his poetry for the audience. Thomas Wang/The Exonian

Faculty Pass Misconduct Proposal

By ANNE BRANDES, DANIEL CHEN and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

The faculty passed a new sexual misconduct review policy with a clear majority vote on Monday, Sept. 16, after extensive revisions to the previous process, such as the elimination of Principal’s Discretion. The policy was jointly developed by administrators, students and faculty this past summer.

The new policy states that after the Exeter Police Department (EPD) decides to close its investigation into a case of sexual misconduct, the Academy will launch an independent investigation. A separate “Misconduct Review Board” (MRB) will then determine appropriate disciplinary and educational responses based on findings from a trained, third-party investigator.

This committee will be chaired by the Dean of Students, currently Brooks Moriarty, and will consist of two additional deans from the Dean of Students’ Office as well as two faculty members chosen from a pool of current and former Community Conduct Committee members who have prior “commitment to and knowledge of sexual misconduct.”

During the investigation and deliberation, the reporting student will be assigned to a specific faculty member—typically the Dean of Student Well-Being, Christina Palmer—who will assist the student as an advisor and source of support. Palmer will also be responsible for making official reports to authorities.

Once they have consulted all findings,

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Richard Blanco Speaks on the American Dream

By MOKSHA AKIL and MAEGAN PAUL
Staff Writers

“In the moment, I felt America standing as one. Putting differences aside, and taking one collective breath,” read poet Richard Blanco at the Academy’s first assembly. The preps in the audience held their breath: they were listening to the very author of their summer reading as he read from his memoir “For All of Us, One Today.”

Blanco visited Exeter after the incoming prep class read his book *The Prince of Los Cocuyos* as part of their common summer—a new initiative part of a developing ninth grade program.

“The common read over the summer spans multiple departments and

spaces on campus,” prep class coordinator and English Instructor Tyler Caldwell explained.

Through assigning *The Prince of Los Cocuyos*, the English and Health Departments wanted incoming students to reflect upon their interpretation of a home. “I hoped that reading this text would encourage students to consider how they might define or understand home,” Caldwell explained.

Reactions from the prep class show that Blanco’s words did, in fact, spark self-reflection, and allow them to ponder on what home meant to them.

Prep Polly Vaillent shared how Blanco’s story resonated with her on a personal level. “A woman in the book said that you can be from a little bit of everywhere, and

I think that’s really interesting because everyone here is a little bit from everywhere.”

Other members of the prep class shared this sentiment. “I’m not sure if I’m really from one place, and now I think that there are a lot of places that make up parts of my identity,” prep Riley Jones said. “It’s nice to see that other people think that they don’t really know where they belong and that I’m not the only one.”

Prep Priya Nwankama added that it was similar to her and her parents’ experience in America. “I’m not an immigrant, but my parents are immigrants, so his American experience is similar to mine in some ways,” she said, “and the fact that it was a book that the school had sent me made me feel like this was a place where I

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Peer Boarding Schools Grapple with Visitations

By ERIN CHOI and EMILY KANG
Staff Writers

For years, Exeter’s Visitations (V’s) policy has been at the center of contentious debate between students and faculty, as the Academy has struggled to devise an inclusive policy that respects students’ need for visitation hours while ensuring safety and liability. Other schools have been grappling with similar issues.

In response to community concerns, Exeter adopted a new V’s policy on Monday, Sept. 16, extending visitations restrictions to all inter-dorm visits and limiting sleepovers to those between boarders and day students affiliated with the dorm. In light of this change, *The Exonian* conducted a review of V’s policies and pertinent discussions that have taken place on other boarding school campuses.

For years, Exeter’s V’s policy has been at the center of contentious debate between students and faculty, as the Academy has struggled to devise an inclusive policy that respects students’ need for visitation hours while ensuring safety and liability. Other schools have been grappling with similar issues.

Last year, at a conference hosted by Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH), Exeter co-drafted several gender-neutral policy proposals along with Phillips Academy Andover, Deerfield Academy, Choate Rosemary Hall and NMH. Out of the five, Exeter is the only school that has followed through on adopting a truly gender-neutral visitations rule to date.

Exeter’s new policy, as written in the E Book, only allows non-dorm residents to visit their peers’ rooms within certain hours of the day; on school nights, lowerclassmen can get visitations from the start of dorm duty until 7:55 p.m., while upperclassmen have until 8:55 p.m. During weekends, students are able to get

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Clubs Recruit New Members

By MOKSHA AKIL and ANNE BRANDES
Staff Writers

Amid a frenzy of shouting and candy pelting, the Academy’s multitude of clubs filled Rink A of the Love Gym last Saturday to recruit new members at the much-anticipated Club Night. Lines of curious new students crowded around tables spread full with an assortment of medals, student publications and robots, eager to sign up for clubs that align with their interests.

Club Night, an annual event, plays a critical role in determining club sizes and dynamics for the coming year. Competing organizations brought elaborate set-ups with props, treats and even a latex-vinegar experiment.

Between Club Night and the Exeter Student Service Organization (ESSO)’s annual Interest Night the previous evening, students were able to gain a sense of Exeter’s diverse extracurricular offerings. “We have over 160 organizations that fall under our office,” Director of

	PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY	DEERFIELD ACADEMY	CHOATE ROSEMARY HALL	NORTHFIELD MOUNT HERMON	ANDOVER ACADEMY
Policy applies to all grades equally	✓	✗ Preps: No V’s until spring term. Only allowed V’s with other preps.	✗ Preps: No V’s until 1/1. For all other grades, V’s begin 10/1.	✗ Preps: No V’s until second half of school year. Only allowed V’s with other preps.	✗ Underclassmen: V’s limited to Wednesday and Saturday evenings.
Policy applies to all genders	✓	△ Not specified, but no in practice.	△ Not specified, but no in practice.	✗	✗
Policy applies to all sexual orientations	✓	✗ Same-sex couples should self-report.	— Not specified.	✓	— Not specified.
Sleepovers (weekend nights)	✗ Exception: Day student affiliates	✓	✓	✓	✗ Exception: Day student affiliates

Boarding school visitations policies in a nutshell. Rachel Won/The Exonian

Student Activities Joanne Lembo said. “Now, some of these have four members, and they play cards once a week. Others, like Mock Trial and [Model United Nations] have a lot more members.” Additionally, 54 clubs fall under the umbrella of ESSO.

With such variety, each club operates differently and caters to a unique experience. Meat Club, which has only existed for a year, provides a space for Exonians to enjoy good food and meet

new people. “Our goal of the club is just to make Exeter just a bit easier,” lower and Meat Club Co-head Matthew Indelicato said. “Exeter is a pretty stressful place and it’s important to just try to have fun with a group of kids.”

On the other hand, clubs like Student Council have more explicit purposes. According to Student Council President Ayush Noori, the club serves as “the liaison between the student

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WEB



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Senior Helena Chen and Upper Meredith Thomas recruit members at Club Night. Paula Pérez-Glassner/The Exonian

Preps Discuss Summer Reading by Richard Blanco

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can come and be accepted.”

Even without being able to create a personal connection, many students could find meaning in his stories. “It wasn’t necessarily relatable for me and what I’ve grown up to,” lower Alexander Luque said, “but it was kind of interesting to see how he grew up and how his transition to the United States was impactful on his life.”

Assembly Coordinator and English Instructor Alex Myers offered some insight into why Blanco was chosen to speak before students and faculty. “[Mr. Caldwell] had taught Blanco’s memoir to preps and it had gone well,” he said, “He thought it would be a good experience for the whole 9th grade, and I agreed. To have even more impact, we wanted to bring the whole community into the experience through an assembly.”

During the assembly, Blanco captivated students with stories of his mother, childhood and experience at President Barack Obama’s second inauguration. For many, this was the first time hearing any of his works, but the prep class and select seniors found further excitement after reading *The Prince of Los Cocuyos* during summer months.

“I thought it was super cool to see him, and all of his successes and his experiences, come to life,” Jones said. She further expand-

ed, noting how being proximate allowed her to have a deeper understanding of his book. “When he actually came here and you could see him and see how he grew as a person, it was super unique and really cool.”

Not only did the assembly allow his words to become tangible to students, but they were also able to hear them as Blanco intended. “Reading the book was a lot different of an experience than him actually speaking,” prep Krish Patel said. “I liked how he gave us an insider look on his life that you can’t get from just reading his story.”

Senior Amanda Harris agreed, adding, “it wasn’t just like he was reading the poems to me, he was telling me a story.” She further comments on the effect of his speaking style. “I think he was more casual than the other poets that we had, which I enjoyed because it felt more relaxed,” she said.

Members of the student body had varied opinions about Blanco’s visit to the school. “I thought his poems were deep but, at the same time, weren’t engaging for the students,” Luque said, “They weren’t as relatable as they could’ve been, I think.”

Others disagreed, expressing excitement after reading his book before hearing him speak. “I ran up to [Blanco] afterwards and it was really cool to get to see [... and] meet him,” Nwakanma said. “I think he’s a fantastic writer and a really good public

Exeter Trains Student Listeners

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ers. However, over the last couple decades, the number of Listeners per year now ranges between 75-80. “Each year the number of applicants far outweigh the number selected,” Morse said.

Director of Counseling and Psychological Services Szu-Hui Lee explained the role of Student Listeners within the Exeter community. “Student Listeners have their fingers on the pulse of how the student community is doing,” she said. “Students tend to go to other students first, so Student Listeners are really our front line support networks. This is why it is important to train the Listeners so they are prepared for how to best support their friends and also know when they should involve adults.”

Hoping to further connect and instruct listeners, program coordinators Licensed Clinician Jo Mautz and Health Education Instructor Elizabeth Hurley arranged a retreat last Sunday. The retreat, hosted at a local YMCA camp, featured field games, water sports and an optional high ropes course.

Morse elaborated on the benefits of the retreat. “It’s a wonderful way to get to know the other Listeners, build teamwork and have great fun just 15 minutes from campus,” she said. “The activities are meant to integrate themes of trust building, self care, supporting each other and one’s peers as well as strengthening the camaraderie of the group.”

In addition to “build[ing] a stronger community within the Student Listening group,” the retreat was also geared towards “finding ways to get out of your comfort zone and build confidence in yourself as a student listener,” senior and Student Listener Giovanna Romero said.

According to Romero, interacting with other Student Listeners improves one’s own listening abilities. “What’s really great about Student Listening is that there’s an entire network that you can talk to if you feel that you can’t adequately help a student.”

At the weekly Monday meetings, Lamont Health Center staff, faculty and other members of the Exeter community present information to the Listeners on a chosen issue. This year, the meetings commenced with discussions on homesickness and will cover anxiety, sexuality, affirmative consent, body image, among others. These workshops will be led by the Student Listeners themselves.

Additionally, members of the community such as Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramelett and Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane will also lead sessions. Meetings, according to upper and

Student Listener Haruka Masamura, cover many aspects of the position, including planning events in the dorm and how to appropriately respond to different situations. These appointments ensure that Listeners are perceived as a “safe outlet” for the dorm as a whole.

Participants also just enjoy meeting with the rest of the Student Listener community. “To get together with a really great group of caring people is a great way to start your week,” said senior and Student Listener Olivia Lazork.

For senior and Student Listener Morgan LeBrun, these meetings inform her about campus resources. These resources, LeBrun mentioned, include the ASAP program, a non-disciplinary program which provides therapeutic services; Exeter’s counseling services, a group of seven licensed experts available for appointment; and HAVEN, a violence prevention and support services agency. “I think those meetings are opportunities for us as student listeners to connect students with resources that are available to everyone on campus,” she said.

With their training, Student Listeners often have a lasting impact in the dorm and day student community, lower Lekha Masoudi explained. “I felt like [my problem] was something that was really hard to fix, but the listener I talked to had also dealt with it,” Masoudi said. “It was someone who I didn’t talk to very often, but she was still willing to get to know my issue, understand it, and help me with it. We weren’t really close, but she still helped me and I really appreciate that.”

Student Listener and upper Annie Shin feels she will be a better peer this upcoming year. “It’s really motivating to know that what I learn in the Student Listener meetings and workshops are all skills and ideas that I can apply to my everyday life, whether I’m ‘working’ as a StuLis or just talking to a friend, roommate, or even a stranger,” she said.

Reflecting on the position of student listener, upper and Student Listener Meredith Thomas recounted how previous Student Listeners inspired her to become one. “I felt comfortable reaching out to student listeners in my dorm,” said Thomas. “They were really helpful to me in figuring things out and just being a really good person to talk to.”

Student Listeners are an essential cog in the Academy support system, Lee concluded. “We want students to reach out to adults, we also understand the powerful influence of peer-to-peer guidance as well,” she said. “Students often reach out to their friends and look for their support, validation, and advice. Student voice is vital.”

Exonians Sign Up for Clubs

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body and the faculty, working to enrich the Exeter experience.” However, a student does not have to be elected to be involved; Noori explained that any member of the Executive Board “would be happy to help” anyone identify a committee or project that best suits their interests.

Many organizations also feature competitive elements. “Because of our three differently tiered competitions, Robotics is engaging for all members,” senior and Robotics Co-head Avery Clowes said.

Unlike clubs under Student Activities, ESSO Clubs are managed by club heads and the ESSO Board. “In addition to working on our own projects, the ESSO Board has to spend a lot of time making sure the ESSO Club Heads are accountable and that clubs are running smoothly,” ESSO Co-President Dawson Byrd said. This oversight of smaller organizations within an umbrella organization is unique to ESSO.

All clubs need funding; the necessary amount differs for each organization. Beekeeping Club, which maintains Exeter’s two hives, uses funds for its projects and off-campus trips. “This year we are doing a Topsfield Fair trip as well as several meetings with master beekeepers and apiarists,” senior and Beekeeping Club co-head Grant Goodall said. While the size of a Student Activities club may affect its operations, it has little effect on the amount of funding, which is given by the Student Funding Committee.

Meanwhile, ESSO runs on its own budget, managed by ESSO adviser and Director of Service Learning Elizabeth

Reyes. “Every club is allotted approximately 50 to 70 dollars a term for snacks and food,” Reyes said.

Another key point of distinction between clubs is the role of advisers. Certain clubs, such as the Daniel Webster Debate Society and Exeter Forensics Team, require heavy commitment from their advisers. “I would say I’m more involved than most club advisers. The adult ‘chaperones’ not only supervise the students, but also judge debate rounds of students from other schools and play a large role in running the tournament,” History Instructor Betty Luther-Hillman, who advises both of the aforementioned clubs, said. Some faculty with high club commitments may request to opt out of coaching a sport or receive a course reduction, pending approval from the Dean of Faculty.

Alternatively, ESSO Clubs are advised by Reyes and ESSO Program Assistant Maureen Costello. “What happens with the ESSO Clubs is they’re accountable to Costello or myself,” Reyes said. “We are the ones that show up to the clubs. We are the ones who notice if they use the rooms or not. I’m the one who gets calls from parents when their tutor doesn’t show up or when they’ve showed up for the basketball lesson and people aren’t there.”

While extra-curricular offerings at the Academy vary greatly, each club serves its purpose. Like clubs under Student Activities, “There is a set of requirements [for ESSO clubs], and the number one requirement is their community need,” Reyes said. “We want to make sure it is impactful, it is sustainable and it will continue after you leave.”



Senior Leah Cohen zips by her peers at the Student Listener Retreat. Paula Pérez-Glassner/The Exonian

Academy Cancels D-Format, Extends Advisory Block

By **JEANNIE EOM and FELIX YEUNG**
Staff Writers

Exonians’ schedules this week saw a major change: the replacement of D Format classes for an extended advising period, coupled with a time change for the Meditation program. With no prescribed programming, the extended 90-minute advisory block was given to advisers to use at their discretion.

The E Book describes an advisor as a supporting figure who “plays many different roles including listener, communicator, academic coach, disciplinarian, crisis manager and mentor...to consult both on school affairs and on personal issues.” While the advisor-student relationship is central to student wellbeing at the Academy, mandatory meeting times are typically limited to single 30-minute sessions each week.

The administration planned this ex-

tended advisory period to promote further advisory bonding. “We like the idea of providing additional time for advisers to spend with their advisees, either individually or in groups,” Dean of Residential Life Carol Cahalane said. “It’s a great time of year to build relationships, talk about students’ adjustment to the new school year or just have fun.”

Classics Department Chair Matthew Hartnett invited his advisees to his apartment to bake cupcakes and share a snack while getting to know each other on a personal level. “We sat around the piano while some kids played [the piano] and some kids sang. It was a fun little bonding session,” he said.

History Instructor Margaret Foley’s advisory spent the block making pancakes and talking. Advisee and prep Valerie Whitten voiced her appreciation for the opportunity to “have more fun and create more experiences.”

For upper Audrey Yin, the extended

advisory block was a chance to spend much-needed time with fellow advisees, especially those residing in other dorms. “I moved to a new dorm this year and that came with concerns about whether I’d see people in my old dorm ever again. I loved the girls there. I still love them—they’re family to me,” Yin said. “It was a really nice experience to be able to eat breakfast with them and catch up. It makes me feel like I’m still a part of that community.”

Students shared different opinions on whether Extended Advising should continue. “As students get more stressed out, they might want more time in their advisory. So I think during certain points [of the school year], it can be helpful,” upper Noah James said. “It’s a good opportunity for students to have a support group when school gets really stressful so they have people to come to.”

However, James emphasized that the extra time should be used for a valuable purpose

that justifies the removal of a class format, sharing that his own adviser used the period to complete a questionnaire on how he could best support the advisory. “It was a good time, but we [didn’t] need the full time,” James said. “I don’t think the Extended Advisory time is beneficial, as the normal advising period is long enough to do the same activities.” James’ advising group ended their meeting early, as they did not need the whole hour and a half.

Still, others were appreciative of the initiative, suggesting that the typical length of weekly advisory formats is insufficient. “Assembly is an hour, twice a week. Something as important as communicating with your advising group should be more of an extended time, to really talk about your day,” Whitten said.

She continued, “It’s really worth continuing this Extended Advising. It’s really nice to just sit and chill and talk.”

The Exonian Compares V's Policies at Boarding Schools

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beginning of duty until five minutes prior to check-in.

Concerns about Heteronormativity

Andover's V's policy, as currently phrased in the Blue Book (Andover's student handbook), does not explicitly endorse nor oppose gender neutrality. In practice, however, the policy is reliably enforced for opposite-sex visits only, though dorm faculty ask that students in same-sex relationships honor the V's restrictions of their own accord. "In an effort to make our room visiting policies as equitable and inclusive as possible with acknowledgment of our largely binary dormitory system," the Blue Book reads, "we expect students engaged in any intimate relationship to adhere to our room-visiting policies."

In contrast, Choate specifies in its handbook that the parietal (V's) policy only applies to opposite-gender visits, regardless of the student's sexual orientation. "Visitation applies equally to heterosexual students and to those who identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual," the handbook states. "In other words, a male identifying as gay would need visitation permission to visit a female friend in her room; additionally, his sexuality would not prohibit him from living with boys or visiting other boys in their rooms so long as other school policies are observed."

The Hotchkiss School implemented a gender-neutral policy similar to Exeter's in September 2018, limiting all inter-dorm visits to specified hours. The new policy received immediate backlash from students and reverted a month later to its original form, with an additional clause requiring students to keep their doors open during visitations.

Hotchkiss Dean of Residential Life Heather Perrenoud stated that student backlash reversed the administration's efforts to create a more inclusive policy. "Where we have landed now with our policies is still not accomplishing one of the goals we had in making changes in the 2018-19 school year: removing gender and the heteronormative nature of our policies," she said.

Hotchkiss' all-dorms do notably operate with a more lenient policy, as visitation rules are enforced at the dorm head's discretion and generally allow any student to visit an all-gender dorm room with the door closed.

Milton Academy implemented a gender-neutral visitation policy in October 2018; they did not make significant changes to their policy other than extending visitation restrictions to all inter-dorm visits. Of note is that Milton has significantly longer weekend visitation hours than Exeter: 12-5p.m. and 7-10:30p.m. on Saturdays, and 12-5p.m. on Sundays. The administration has yet to specify the fine print of the policy regarding sleepovers and door or lighting requirements.

While their website does acknowledge non-heterosexual relationships, Deerfield does not explicitly state that its policy only applies to cross-gender visits, although this is typically the case in practice. "Deerfield's dorm room Visitations Policy acknowledges some students—regardless of their gender identity or sexual

orientation—are engaged in relationships that are more than simple friendships. The closeness of our community and our current gender-binary housing system require a degree of trust," the policy reads.

According to Deerfield junior Madeline Lee, sexual orientation affects visitations on a case-by-case basis. "If the teachers know about your sexual orientation, they might tell you to check in with them for parietals for all visits," she said. "Otherwise, it doesn't matter that much. People who are LGBT don't check in very often."

Sleepovers

Exeter's new policy has garnered significant controversy of its own, with many students particularly discontented by the sleepover ban.

Hotchkiss also does not permit sleepovers, citing "concerns involving health, safety, sleep, and inclusiveness." An exception is made in the case of day students staying in their affiliate dorms on Saturday nights.

Milton, since announcing its gender-neutral policy, has not yet announced its updated sleepover policy.

Andover, Deerfield and Choate permit sleepovers between students sharing a gender identity on weekend or otherwise non-academic nights.

Grade-based Distinctions

Apart from granting upperclassmen an additional hour of visitations on school nights, Exeter's V's policy is largely consistent across all grade levels.

At Andover, ninth graders may only begin room visitations in the spring, and even then, can only visit other ninth graders on Fridays and Sundays. Lower, upper and senior visitations, which are permitted every night, begin after fall-term dorm and advisory meetings, in which they discuss respectful and safe relationships.

Deerfield similarly does not allow freshmen to visit opposite-gender dorm rooms until Jan. 1, while older students can begin visitations on October 1. Choate similarly does not permit freshmen to visit opposite-gender rooms for the first half of the year. In addition, freshmen may only visit other freshmen, unless they are visiting an older sibling.

At Hotchkiss, all grades are prohibited from getting cross-gender visitations until the end of their first marking period. Afterward, lowerclassmen are permitted visitations on Wednesdays and Sundays, and upperclassmen are permitted every night.

Door positioning

Many schools also impose specific restrictions on door positioning during visitations.

Starting this year, Exeter, which previously mandated that room doors be "halfway open," now requires the door to be "fully open."

At Deerfield, the rules vary based on grade level. Underclassmen must keep the door open with a trash can, but upperclassmen may instead use a shoe, placed sole-down.

Similarly, Choate specifies that for "underformers, the door must be open at least as much as the long side of a school-issued trash or recycling bin."

During senior-senior visits, students may use a shoe.

Andover requires doors to be opened 90 degrees during visitations; however, seniors may have closed-door visitations after January 1.

Hotchkiss requires students to prop open their doors with school-issued trash cans for any inter-dorm visit, including same-gender visits, which do not require faculty permission.

Campus Discourse

Following Hotchkiss' reversal of a gender-neutral policy, talks of exploring gender-neutral options for V's have receded from many student conversations. President of The Hotchkiss Record and senior Nick Lorentzen emphasized that a majority of the student body supported their return to a gender binary policy and believes that it reflects what students need. "Due to the tremendous effort of many students and the cooperation of administrators, the interdorming policy at Hotchkiss was changed to reflect both the opinions of students and the needs of an ever-changing atmosphere at a boarding school," he said.

On the other hand, many Andover community members have remained vocal about the heteronormativity of their V's policy in recent years. Similarly to Exeter, PA's student council actively sought feedback from the student body, hosting an All-School Congress last winter to facilitate student-faculty discussions regarding parietals.

According to Jennifer Elliott, Andover's Assistant Head of School for Residential Life and Dean of Students, no changes have yet been made to the V's policy despite robust discourse about potential revisions.

Talks of implementing a more gender-inclusive policy similar to Exeter's have also entered discussions on Choate's campus, but some students questioned its feasibility and restrictive nature. Choate senior Matt Lee questioned whether the school was capable of effectively overseeing a gender-neutral policy. "I think that [requiring visitations for all genders] would be difficult for students to understand and faculty to enforce," he said. "Nobody really wants it, and it's way too easy to break it. I think it makes sense, but the school isn't ready for it."

Choate's Dean of Residential Life William Morris noted that their conversations are still up in the air. "The whole concept is nuanced and complex, and therefore there does not appear to be one perfect solution that can fully address every facet of the issue," he said.

According to Madeline Lee, heteronormativity has not been a significant theme in Deerfield's discussions about parietals; rather, they have dealt more frequently with the campus hook-up culture. "People don't talk a lot about the LGBT side of things because [of a lack of] diversity," she said.

Madeline Lee continued that while the current V's policy offers LGBT students greater freedom, it is telling that the policy does not make any specifications regarding same-gender visits between intimate students. "It means that Deerfield doesn't see LGBT relationships [as] the same as heterosexual relationships, or

that they don't have the same relevance to the community," she said.

Purpose of Visitations

Schools hold a variety of stances on the purpose of visitations between students in intimate relationships, from fostering a safe space for healthy relationships to not supporting any form of sexual relations.

Elliott explained that through visitations, Andover "would like to promote community building and relationship building, and we have used safety, trust, and inclusion as our guiding values."

Hotchkiss specifies that visitations should not be used for sexual intimacy.

Deerfield's policy, while noting that visitations are not intended exclusively for intimate relationships, suggests that the parietals policy also helps to establish a respectful environment in the case of sexual intimacy.

"At Deerfield, we encourage students to visit each other, to foster friendships, and to practice the skills that lead to meaningful relationships," their policy reads. "The Visitations Policy does not—and should not—assume that students requesting visitation are engaged in an intimate, physical, or sexual relationship. These rules do not sufficiently address the complex topics of intimacy and consent, but are intended to promote a safe environment for all students."

While Choate's handbook does not specifically outline the purpose of visitations, Morris explained that visitations could be used both for social and academic purposes. "Essentially we want to allow students an opportunity to host their friends in their own room for a visit. The visit could have many purposes," he said.

Andover senior Samson Zhang feels that visitations could relieve pressure from students in certain situations, noting the conflict between this security measure and the need for privacy. "I believe that the purpose of a room visitation policy is to keep students safe in what would otherwise be entirely closed and possibly dangerous situations where people can be pressured into unwanted situations with no way out," he said. "The challenge of working out a functional policy is to balance ensuring safety with making room visits actually accessible and useful as a space to develop healthy relationships."

Zhang hoped that schools, in implementing a non-heteronormative policy, would extend their trust to all students rather than imposing more restrictions. "We should trust students to be capable of making good and safe enough decisions in their rooms to not need constant monitoring just because a visitor is of a different gender," he said. "In aiming to eliminate heteronormativity, the administration should try to extend their trust rather than renounce it."

Lorentzen believes that the most important part of creating a policy is to prioritize their students' needs and opinions. "[S]chools should not be governed by Machiavelli's words 'It is better to be feared than loved,' but rather be a mutually beneficial society that incorporates all members of the governed body in its decisions," he said.

Students and Faculty Review Sexual Misconduct Policy

Continued from MISCONDUCT, 1

the MRB will engage in a preliminary vote and present their results to the Principal, Assistant Principal and General Counsel, with a summary letter explaining their rationale. After further discussion, the MRB will take a final vote.

Principal William Rawson, Assistant Principal Karen Lassey and Director of Equity and Inclusion Stephanie Bramlett began efforts to revise the Academy's sexual misconduct review process last spring, in the wake of the three-hour student sit-in on May 9 protesting the Academy's history of mishandling incidents of sexual assault. The protest, led by the class of 2019, was largely perceived as a culmination of student frustrations built up over years of experience with the Academy's inadequate support for sexual assault survivors.

Grace Carroll '19, a protest participant, reiterated some of the proposals outlined during and after the protest. "One thing we kept coming back to was the role of the Dean's Committee and Principal as the arm of the investigation making the final call on its outcome," she said. "We felt that this body should more closely resemble that of the Discipline Committee, [composed of] faculty members who had proved themselves to be empathetic, engaged educators who have relationships with students on a more individual level."

A select group of students subsequently drew up a new sexual misconduct review process over the course of six meetings with Lassey, Bramlett and Rawson, two of which occurred in the school year and four during the summer. According to Lassey, these meetings "prompted

and influenced" the administration's recent proposal.

Several students from the group also maintained contact with Lassey into the 2019-20 year, checking in on the policy's progress every two to three weeks via email and video chat. According to Exonians Against Sexual Assault co-head and senior Janalie Cobb, the group contributed by "reading over documents and offering our opinions in addition to proposing alternative or completely new changes."

In the deliberation process, senior Kiki Aguilar called for "a clearer investigation process and making the process more survivor-focused," adding, "We were focused to include parts of the policy that took care of the mental aspect of both parties' safety."

While Lassey sought to incorporate as many student suggestions as possible, some revisions were not incorporated into the proposal. "We didn't want to be disingenuous that we were willing to entertain all of the points students mentioned," she said, specifying two omitted components as the use of the word "persuasion" when describing affirmative consent and a request that students be able to appoint faculty members for the deciding body.

While this particular revision did not pass, the definition of affirmative consent was expanded over the summer to include the term "coercion" and added material to the bulleted list following the definition.

Senior Khine Win, a student contributor, emphasized the close collaboration between students and faculty. "We worked on every single step of the process with [Lassey]," she said.

Prior to the faculty vote, Lassey presented the policy to Student Council, the Community Conduct Committee and attendees at an open student forum last Sunday in an attempt to gather further community input. Senior and Student Council President Ayush Noori expressed gratitude for the administration's transparency. "As the representatives of the student body, we were excited for the opportunity to confer with Principal Lassey and share this policy with as many Exonians as possible," he said. "Voicing student feedback in these initiatives helps realize Student Council's goal to foster a safer and healthier campus."

Many alumni voiced their appreciation for different components of the proposal. "I am really optimistic about the addition of two faculty members to the MRB," Carroll said. "I think the presence of faculty in the final deciding body of an investigation will hopefully make students feel more trust in the powers behind the reporting process, if there are teachers who they already know and trust involved in deciding the outcome."

Ingrid Bergill '19—an alumna deeply involved in last year's protest—similarly expressed high hopes for the MRB, but emphasized that diverse representation will need to be a priority. "I would be curious to know which deans and which faculty end up on the board to see the diversity represented there because in my opinion, if the board isn't a diverse group of faculty, it doesn't have the effect protesters last year had in mind," she said.

While the recent revisions are a step in the right direction, the larger task will be cultivating a trusting community, Hill-

ary Davis '19 noted. "When I got to college, it struck me almost immediately how open and comfortable the entire community felt talking about sexual assault and the resources and reporting processes on campus," Davis said. "Already, with my awareness of these resources, I know I would feel comfortable reporting or discussing sexual assault if I ever need, which is something that Exeter needs to instill in new students almost immediately so that the entire student body eventually shares this awareness and comfort."

"I understand this transition will take time, but I am glad to see the administration making a concrete effort to improve following our conversations last spring," Davis continued.

With faculty support, Lassey plans to work with the Dean of Students' Office in upcoming weeks to incorporate the policy into the E Book. "We will make a midyear revision to the E Book and inform parents and students of the changes," she said, clarifying that the policy is still open to further revisions and restructuring.

Palmer believes that the new protocol will improve the efficacy and sensitivity of the reporting process. "The Misconduct Review Process does recognize and is sensitive to the urgency needed for resolution, transparency in the process and acknowledges the impact of trauma associated with sexual misconduct," she said.

"We still need to work on giving consent and not just learning but respecting each other and giving these learnings life," Aguilar said. "I think Exeter views itself as a more liberal school, so we think that we know what sexual misconduct is, but it is not the truth."



ExonianHumor



Alternative Affinity Groups

By NICK SCHWARZ
Professional Procrastinator

Below are some affinity groups students were not able to sign-up for on club night, in an effort to preserve anonymity.

Prep Appreciation Club

Where: Church Basement. When: 9 (after preps check in) on Tuesdays.

Support for students who borrow other people's pencils and chew and/or break off the clip.

Where: Library Commons. When: 7 on Mondays.

Exonians against Elm

Where: Second floor of Weth. When: 6:30 on Fridays.

Exonians against Weth

Where: Library Tower room. When: 6:30 on Fridays.

How to wait to leave assembly until after someone says "Senior class": an eight week course
Where: Assembly Hall. When: 7 on Wednesdays.

Exeter "I think it's ok to blast music in grill" Society
Where: Grill. When: All the dad-gum time.

Refusing to put silverware in proper place club
Where: Elm and Weth. When: Lunch on Thursdays.

Harkness Society
Where: Find a table. When: Whenever your thirst for knowledge peaks

Nobody:

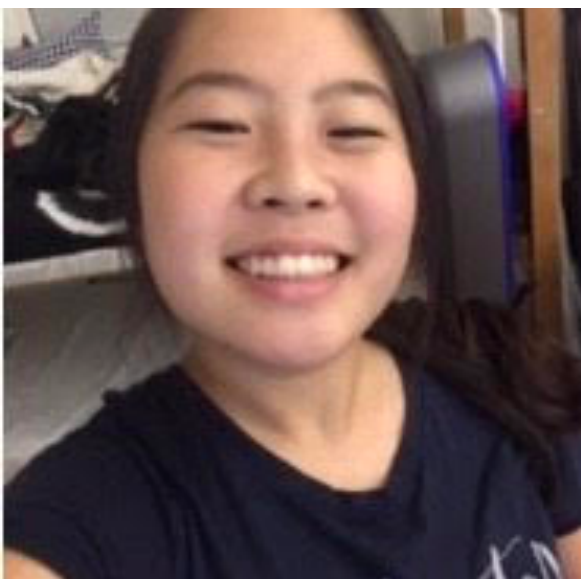
IT after too many phishing cases last year:



By RYAN XIE
Pro Phisherman

TFW You Have To Buy Your Data for 1K

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Never took Comp Sci



Breaking: Principal Rawson Sighted "Surging With Power"

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
I'm Scared

Late afternoon last Thursday, William Rawson, the formerly-interim-then-properly-annointed principal of Phillips Exeter Academy was spotted, "surging with power" outside D^2, a coffee shop popular among most students. Onlookers described him as having a "menacing aura" where they "didn't really feel that scared, but knew [Rawson] was capable of great evil," at that moment. D^2 staff is considering permanently banning Rawson from the location after bolts of electricity began sprouting from his body, leading to many customers fleeing the scene and multiple calls to the Exeter Police Department. Upon their arrival, Rawson taunted the officers, shouting that, "nothing could harm [him]," and that he was "beyond mortal comprehension." When asked why the police failed to stop Rawson, Exeter Chief of Police Ryan Mathews replied, "Listen, guys; the academy does a lot of good for the community and for the most part, Rawson's a pretty good guy. I don't understand the

issue with letting a guy let loose once in a while. Also, I thought I would die."

Due to legal limitations and Mathews' feeble, spineless nature, more detailed accounts of the event had to be sought out among the student body. An anonymous Lower relates, "I was sitting inside the store drinking a London fog when my mug suddenly shattered. I looked out the window to see Rawson with two fingers on his temple, focusing so intensely he was turning purple. I wasn't sure if he was breathing but when I realized he was sucking all the oxygen out of the air I went back to my dorm to get some homework done."

Other students have begun suggesting Principal Rawson to be God, viewing the show of power as a possible beginning of the reckoning. A new club, Rawson's Sons, has even arisen out of the movement, with the rationale behind it being that they, "haven't really seen anything this powerful in [their] lives," and, "even if [Rawson] isn't the God, you have to admit he is one."

After polling the general student populus on their thoughts about the Rawson incident and the new club, most have said they, "don't care," and "at least he's not writing an article about it." That hurt my feelings.

Finally, parental response has been overwhelmingly in favor of Rawson. Likely rooted in the stresses of sending their children to boarding school, most every parent has reached the consensus that it's much safer to have Rawson allied with the school than pitted against it. Single father Richard Williams states many high schoolers are impressionable and if he had a powerful role model like that when he was that age he would be "World President" already, and not "the goddamn executive manager of Denny's." "Besides," continues Williams, "I don't think any of you have the means to get rid of him."

Although having been generally unresponsive and unaccommodating in our efforts of getting a quote, Rawson has stated, "you couldn't handle what I know."

Kid Passes Out While Dropping Off Plate in Elm

By RYAN XIE

Replace Weth with a Fleet of Food Trucks (iykyk)

Prep Zark Muc passed out yesterday while dropping off his plate in Elm. While we don't know the full story, bystanders have speculated that it had something to do with the smell. Lower Ban Drown concurred. "I think he caught one whiff of the smell and fainted. He tried to hold his nose, but the MgSO4 smell was too strong." He didn't even make it to the end of the dhall cubbies before dropping on the ground.

While we wait on Zark Muc to come back from his coma, we all wish him a speedy recovery so that he can finally finish the Exeter Tinder project he was working on. It might be Bace-Fook, actually.

Anyways, Zark Muc's friend

group decided to start going to Weth now, because it's closer to their dorm—Ewald.

D-Hall staff member Derek (the guy who used to make omelettes (RIP Derek 2018)) decided to stop working in the D-Hall cleaning area after hearing about this incident. He instead defected to making omelettes. After finding out that the fish they used was Red's Best, and that the chicken was as dry as cardboard, Derek had enough. He quit. Guess PMac had the right idea.

As a result, D-Hall staff has now decided to count the number of preplings walking into Elm, which is why they started to station someone at the entrance of Elm to count the number of

people walking in each time.

Turns out, Zark Muc woke up while we were writing this article. Due to the potent smell, he has completely forgotten everything that has happened recently, including how he passed out. as a result, he decided to walk through it the cleaning area again, upon which he passed out again.

Exonians worldwide have now learned a lesson: Drop off your plate at WETH.

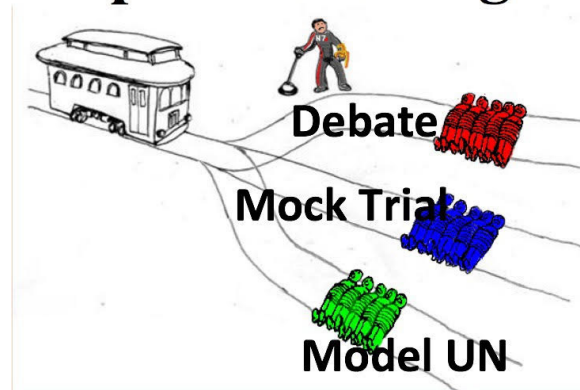
At Weth, you don't have to walk through a toxic waste zone. Instead, you can stack everyone's plates on top of each other on one tray, and selfishly wait for the Weth staff to separate the plates and silverware.

Meme Zone

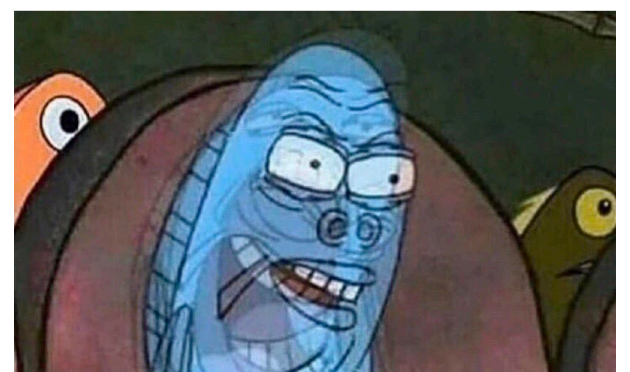
By RYAN XIE
Quit all 3 after Prep Year

By BENJAMIN GORMAN
Allergic to Fish

Preps at Club Night



"Red's Best"



Quotes of the Week

"Who's EP?"
-Anonymous Prep

"I still can't believe our student body president doesn't believe a cake is a casserole."
-Random Lower

"I feel like I'm trapped here"
-Thomas Wang '20

"CAROLINE CALLOWAY"
-Isabella Ahmad '20

"I just peed myself reading that article. LITERALLY."
-Caroline Fleming '20

This might become a box for Flexeter submissions.

Or, you can just submit to us instead of them.

Seriously — new year, new class of 2022.

Plus, you're almost uppers, so you need some leadership positions.

PLEASE — write for humor.

SeniorSpotlight

ROBIN POTTER

By TUCKER GIBBS and
MAEGAN PAUL

Contributing Writer and Staff Writer

Senior Robin Potter always makes a point to smile at each person she passes on the path. Through her positions on Exeter sports teams and passion for sailing, her energetic personality enriches the lives of those around her.

From their first encounters with Potter, students and adults alike were energized by her motivation. "I actually met Robin before she ever came to PEA," her adviser, science instructor Elizabeth Stevens, said. Stevens encountered Potter and her family by chance while sailing. She continues describing the meeting, adding, "I was struck by how mature Robin was...[s]he was a very competent and confident small boat operator at 13 years old."

As captain of the soccer team, Potter uses her role to foster a welcoming environment. Upper Evie Houston has also known Potter for many years, as both played in a local soccer league. Once at Exeter, Houston recalls how Potter welcomed her to the team.

"Being a freshman on the varsity team is really intimidating, and I felt like she made me feel at home," Houston said. "She has always been the type of person that really just wants to make everybody feel included, and that one of the great attributes she has and a reason she makes such a great captain," she added.

During her prep year, Potter joined the varsity girls soccer and hockey teams and has continued playing both sports for her entire Exeter career. Hockey teammate and senior Allison Lennie said, "[s]he was on my line last year and she's really fun to play with. She works really hard." Hard work seems to be a cornerstone of Potter's ideals, affecting all that she does, from schoolwork to the



Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

ESSO club Haiti Pen Pals.

Potter carries a strong presence in the classroom as well as in the sports arena. At the Harkness table, she was always an active participant. "Even though she wasn't the loudest in the room, Robin was always completely focused and engaged," Spanish Instructor Ellen Glassner said. Even though she may not talk constantly, her comments are commended by her classmates. "She's the type of person that when she talks everyone wants to listen," Houston stated.

Many have picked up on Potter's caring personality. "Even if she's having

a bad day, she will be nice to everyone around her. That kindness makes her shine wherever she goes," senior Tina Fernandez said. Potter's character hasn't only been noticed by her friends, with her advisor saying that "[Potter] is the embodiment of goodness and knowledge [...] She will surely have a positive impact on our world," Stevens added.

Outside of Exeter, Potter is involved in sailing with her family. From a young age, she has sailed in Northeast Harbor, Maine. Of sailing, she says, "the travelling aspect really resonates with me, and I just love being on the water."

More recently, Potter participated

in an Instagram competition facilitated by Sailing SV Delos, a prominent sailing YouTube channel. With the help of the Exeter community, Potter reached the finals of the competition to sail around the world with Delos. "My friends were super supportive," she said. "They wrote in comments for me and liked my [YouTube video]. It felt really good to have the whole community behind me."

As part of the selection process, Potter submitted a video that was ultimately displayed on their channel. "They ended up picking another person," Potter said, "but I thought it was just super cool to make it that far and connect with them."

Despite not making the final cut, Potter still dreams of her own sailing adventures. "I've always wanted to live on a boat since I was little," she said. "Sailing is definitely something I want to do for my whole life."

Despite all her achievements, Potter remains modest. "I love how she's amazing at so many things, but she's super humble about it," Fernandez said. Stevens agreed, adding, "despite all of her successes, [Potter] remains humble. This, in my opinion, is one of her finest qualities."

Senior Allison Pendleton further admires Potter: "Everything about her inspires me, especially the way that she's unapologetically herself and she's always eager to try new things," she said. "Just being around her is enough to make me smile."

Nearing the end of her Exeter career, Potter reflects on her future plans. "When I grow up," she said, "I want to have a career that really helps someone." Through her work with Haiti Pen Pals and other ESSO clubs, Potter found a love for helping others. "I think we have a lot of privilege here so I like to acknowledge that and connect with people in different areas," she concluded.

FacultySpotlight

CHELSEA WOODARD

By MOKSHA AKIL
and ERIN CHOI

Staff Writers

English Instructor Chelsea Woodard may write poetry now, but her first introduction to the creative world wasn't through words. Coming from a family of visual artists who inspired her to see the craft as "something worthwhile," Woodard decided to pursue studio art in college.

However, her career plans changed after a professor recommended her to a Johns Hopkins MFA (Master of Fine Arts) program in creative writing. "Part of the [program] was to teach an undergraduate creative writing class each term," she said. "I was just kind of thrown into teaching, and I was only a year or two older than my students." Despite her initial struggles, she instantly felt a connection with the pedagogical side of writing and decided to pursue it further.

After her program at Johns Hopkins, Woodard taught English at other schools and served as the Coordinator of the Assessment Resources Program at Dartmouth College before arriving at Exeter in 2018.

Upon her arrival at Exeter, Woodard found that the quality of the students increased the merits of the Harkness pedagogy. "I love that [the education here] is more democratic and about letting the students initiate or negotiate how they arrive at conclusions, rather than having the teacher be the only one who asks the questions," she said. "I love that active ownership that students take over the material and over the process of the conversation."

Woodard fondly recalled her senior elective poetry course last fall, noting her unique connection with the genre. "Poetry is the genre that I write in, that I've studied," she said. "I think it's always special to be able



Helena Chen/The Exonian

to teach the thing you love to students who are so smart and engaged and talented. I was excited to go to that class every day. It felt like such a privilege."

Besides teaching English at Exeter, Woodard serves as an affiliate dorm faculty in Lamont Hall and an advisor to the literary and art magazine Pendulum, the Daniel Webster debate society, and the Bob Ross painting club. She has also continued experimenting with the visual arts and earned her yoga teaching

certification at Exeter.

Students from Lamont Hall find Woodard to be understanding and kind in the dorm. "When you have a problem and you go to talk to her about it, she will try to help you, even if she doesn't know about the problem," lower and advisee of Woodard Hannah Henris said.

Henris believed that having Woodard as her advisor and dorm faculty has made her life at Exeter more enjoyable. "I could always just go up to her to talk," Henris said. "She's also

not quick to judge and she handles different personalities really well."

Woodard's understanding of other people can be seen in her collections of poetry, another vital element of Woodard's creative expression. While she initially developed her attachment to the genre through recitation assignments in elementary school, it wasn't until her senior year of college when she took a poetry class and realized that "it was something I was interested in writing as well," she said.

Coming to Exeter, Woodard had already published two poetry collections: *Vellum* in 2014, and *Solitary Bee* in 2016. Over this summer, she completed her third manuscript and is sending it out to publishers.

Woodard noted that the Exeter English curriculum has served as an inspiration for her writing. "I get a lot of ideas for poems by what I'm reading and teaching," she said. She is also motivated by dynamic, artistic culture on campus. "I think there's so much that's inspiring in the creative work and thinking that students and colleagues are doing on campus," she said. "To be around that creative, intellectual environment is always really inspiring for your own work."

Woodard remembers one instance when she attended a student and faculty art exhibit last spring. "A student had made this incredible painting. She asked us to find where the gun was hidden in it," she recalled. "I ended up writing a poem about that because I found her painting so interesting."

While Woodard usually only gives her own visual art pieces as gifts now, she nonetheless incorporates her knowledge of studio art into her writing. "I do write some ekphrastic poems and poems about the process of artistic making," she said. "I find it really interesting, partially because it's a process that I know myself."



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Democratic Imperialism

Emmanuel Tran '21

Columnist

Today, the Washington establishment, including conservatives like Mitt Romney and Ted Cruz, gathered to mourn the loss of one of their leading lights, National Security Adviser John R. Bolton. More surprisingly, progressive Democrats like Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut also condemned President Trump's decision to fire Bolton. The support from liberal Democrats like Murphy is unsurpris-

ing, as Bolton's reputation in certain circles is a "neoconservative"—a term that he rejects.

Understanding recent trends in American politics reveal the secret enemy within our nation, which continues to gamble with taxpayer money and the lives of both American soldiers and foreign civilians. To comprehend Bolton and his role in the Trump administration, we have to consider the origins of neoconservatism.

The neoconservatives began as left-wingers who were strongly opposed to communism and thus advocated military intervention abroad. They couched their rhetoric of liberal humanism in

harsh military action abroad: the first success of the neoconservative movement came with the war in Kuwait over thirty years ago, an supposedly necessary action. Yet American intervention lost its allure after the slow-motion train wreck of the Iraq War.

Historically, liberal progressives were strongly opposed to wars, advocating and marching for peace abroad. Over the past few years, the historic position of the Democratic Party has flipped entirely. While President Obama argued against the war in Iraq, he began

Democrats, such as presidential candidate Tim Ryan, have attempted to argue that foreign military intervention is fundamentally consistent with democratic values: Ryan lampooned American anti-interventionists for being unwilling to spread democracy through force during the Democratic debates.

I understand these Democrats' arguments, but they make a fundamental error: they confuse internationalism, the fraternal collaboration of all nations, with globalism and imperialism,

have started to oppose President Trump because he has abandoned some key neoconservative positions, such as opposition to a large federal government or support for American interven-

It's particularly symbolic to address this issue close to 9/11, the fateful day which has led to so many more deaths than the thousands who died in those two towers.

Historically, liberal progressives were strongly opposed to wars, advocating and marching for peace abroad. Over the past few years, the historic position of the Democratic Party has flipped entirely.

the formation of a world order with the Global South revolving in the periphery of a Euro-American axis. A true internationalist would advocate for the rights of each nation, yet opposes unjust interventions for imperialist profit.

Unfortunately, Democrats have prostituted their own positions and values for political gain. The current Democratic strategy is simply to federate all the people in the country who might disagree with President Trump, from mainstream conservatives to socialists. But this opportunistic opposition is foolish. President Trump supports social security; should Democrats oppose it because President Trump favors it?

There is another reason, perhaps, for the sudden change of heart in the Democratic establishment: money. Many influential Republican donors

tionism. Democratic leaders want to capitalize on these former Republicans' money and support. This strategy was tried by Hillary Clinton, who chose to abandon key Democratic voters, such as midwestern unionized workers, in favor of pleasing moderate Republicans. It spectacularly failed, something which the Democratic establishment has seemingly forgotten.

It's particularly symbolic to address this issue close to 9/11, the fateful day which has led to so many more deaths than the thousands who died in those two towers. At the time, mainstream Democrats like Hillary Clinton rallied around foreign wars because it seemed politically profitable. Years later, they had to stand before soldiers who had lost their lives and account for what they did. I hope that those in the Democratic Party who realize the folly of foreign interventionism, like Tulsi Gabbard and Bernie Sanders, prevail. If not, their party will complete a full transformation into the globalist, imperialist party of perpetual war for America.

Understanding recent trends in American politics reveal the secret enemy within our nation, which continues to gamble with taxpayer money and the lives of both American soldiers and foreign civilians.

I understand these Democrats' arguments, but they make a fundamental error: they confuse internationalism, the fraternal collaboration of all nations, with globalism and imperialism, the formation of a world order with the Global South revolving in the periphery of a Euro-American axis.

to slowly embrace war, with frequent drone strikes and military intervention in the Middle East, most notably in Afghanistan. Hillary Clinton defended a form of interventionism as well, in a striking reversal of traditional Democratic policy. At the same time, conservatives and reactionaries like Tucker Carlson have begun to advocate against NATO-style interventions.

Why has this change occurred? Part of this is linked to President Trump's opposition to foreign wars, which has provoked a rather stupid change of position between the two parties. Some

Our Priorities, Backward

Dennis Kostakoglu-Aydin '21

Columnist

This past summer has been revealing in many ways, and one of the biggest revelations I've had was on Exeter's priorities, as compared to those of the world at large. Two weeks ago, Principal Rawson officially opened the school year at the annual start of school assembly, giving a speech on Exeter's new priorities. I remember my prep year, when then-principal Lisa MacFarlane gave a speech on ending sexual assault and harassment at Exeter, marking it one of the administration's major goals for the year. This year, Principal Rawson spoke about the ongoing attempts to make Exeter a more inclusive environ-

I want to clarify: I'm not writing this piece to call Principal Rawson out.

ment, one that is sensitive to all creeds of people.

I was somewhat disappointed, however, by the lack of regard for other events that occurred this past summer. Surely the fight over Mauna Kea in Hawaii, or Hurricane Dorian, deserve mention. However, I'm going to focus on two issues the world faced this summer: the terrorist shootings in Dayton, Ohio and El Paso, Texas and the Brazilian-president sponsored burning of the Amazon.

I want to clarify: I'm not writing this piece to call Principal Rawson out, or try to speak truth to power, and I know that Principal Rawson has mentioned such issues before. This is specifically

about what was left out at the start of school assembly—arguably one of our most symbolic gatherings—and what that says about our community.

Brazilian President Bolsonaro is well known for his anti-environmentalist stances. While encouraging people to call him "Captain Chainsaw," he says that the official reports on the amount

While I do think that it is vital for our community to work towards greater inclusivity, I was somewhat disappointed by the lack of regard for other events that occurred this past summer.

of deforestation in the Amazon is "bad advertising" and argues that the Amazon harms Brazilian farmers. Bolsonaro also spoke against German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French Prime Minister Emmanuel Macron, arguing that the leaders should not interfere in Brazil's problems.

But issues like this deserve to be talked about. According to the UN, we only have 11 years to solve the problem of climate change, and I don't know about anyone else, but I have no desire to grow up in a world destroyed by the actions of people who were too foolish to realize the significance of the natural world.

In calling for greater discussion surrounding climate events, it is important to note that the law firm Latham and Watkins, where Principal Rawson was formerly employed, advises the corporate agrochemical giant Monsanto, aiding anti-environment efforts in the

Amazon. Still, Exeter has only ever allotted only one Climate Action Day per year, when we all sit down and talk about the future of Earth and how we can help prevent global warming. It's urgent that we have more of those conversations, and as the years pass, it only becomes more urgent.

I will remember my reactions to the back-to-back shootings this summer for the rest of my life. A couple days after the Dayton shooting, my parents and I woke up at 8 a.m. to go grocery shopping at Meijer. The reason we woke up so early was because we had been too afraid to go the night before, and we assumed it would be safer in the morning. That morning, I was looking over my shoulder

I don't want to live in fear of mass shootings or global warming, and in order to find solutions, we need conversation.

constantly while shopping. I was afraid of everyone, and I wasn't the only one. Trevor Noah, on the *Daily Show*, reported on a motorcycle backfiring in Times Square. The motorcycle backfired, causing a riot in Times Square because people thought that they were about to be shot. Some were even sent to the hospital due to injuries they sustained during the stampede. Noah labeled this incident America's "mass shooting PTSD." Essentially, the sheer amount of mass shootings that have occurred just this year alone has changed the behavior of Americans. We are afraid to go out in public. We are afraid to carry backpacks

in public spaces. Even something harmless like owning a motorcycle can be dangerous now.

I'm not saying we shouldn't attempt to make Exeter more inclusive. I'm saying that we can think simultaneously about those subjects and climate change, mass shootings and other pressing issues we face.

For everyone, especially young people like me, it's important that we have conversations around these topics, if only as a way to put our feelings into the open. I don't want to live in fear of mass shootings or global warming, and to find solutions we need conversation. I acknowledge that an hour isn't enough time to talk about these issues, especially when you also have to introduce the new teachers, recognize the emeriti and read the Deed of Gift, but even a simple nod to these problems would do. Saying "I stand in solidarity against the mass shootings and the purposeful burning of the Amazon" would at the very least get people thinking about these issues. I'm not saying we shouldn't attempt to make Exeter more inclusive. I'm saying that we can think simultaneously about about those subjects and climate change, mass shootings and other pressing issues we face. Even though sometimes we should hold off on an issue in order to fully solve another, a brief mention of the problems we face would do wonders for those issues—it would start conversations.

The Exonian

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Felicity Huffman: Pampered Prisoner

Felix Yeung '21

Staff Writer

When news of Operation Varsity Blues broke, many assumed that the perpetrators' heads would roll. But now that actress Felicity Huffman has received her criminal sentence—the first among the parents involved—we know that these heads really won't be rolling. Instead, those who have been involved in one of the largest conspiracies to undermine the integrity of the college admissions system will likely receive sentences not entirely commensurate to the severity of their crimes.

Operation Varsity Blues, in which conspirator Rick Singer bribed college coaches, test proctors and others to help wealthy clients get into such schools as the University of Southern California and Stanford, was more than an attempt to get a few kids into college. It was not a so-called “victimless crime.” Operation Varsity Blues deprived hard-working, less privileged students the opportunity to attend an educational institution that would have accepted them. While universi-

from receiving the kind of education that these institutions offer.

But the perpetrators' guiltless children are also victims, here. Their parents denied them the ability to truly thrive at an educational institution that would have fit their level of academic proficiency. They also denied their children the opportunity to be on par with their peers, giving them a disadvantage when they actually entered these prestigious institutions. Now that the news of Operation Varsity Blues has broken, these hapless youths are also being expelled from their educational institutions, having their offers rescinded

examination, and her bribe was among the lowest-paid by the thirty-some charged parents. During her trial, she also expressed remorse repeatedly and stated that she would accept any sentence a judge levied upon her. A lenient sentence was expected, even justified, for her.

Huffman may also serve her sentence at a penitentiary Forbes listed as one of the “ten cushiest prisons” in the United States.

Her affiliation with Rick Singer, the mastermind of the plot, was limited to one standardized examination, and her bribe was among the lowest-paid by the thirty-some charged parents. During her trial, she also expressed remorse repeatedly and stated that she would accept any sentence a judge levied upon her.

and having their own integrity called into question—all for crimes they did not commit.

Hence, the sentences of those involved are more than punishments. They send a message. These sentences can tell the general populace that the judiciary will not stand for unethical, criminal intrusions by elites into the educational process. Or they can say that the rich will always get a free pass. Unfortunately, it seems to be that the latter message will prevail.

Now, Huffman's situation has mitigating factors. She pled guilty early on and has cooperated with law enforcement since. Her affiliation with Rick Singer, the mastermind of the plot, was limited to one standardized

Given the severity of her crime, Huffman's sentence—a far cry from the one year prosecutors asked for—seems more like a minor inconvenience than a legitimate punishment that pushes her to understand the impact she has had on the American educational system. Fourteen days isn't enough for rehabilitation; it isn't even enough to send her a message.

No matter how you spin it, there are people whose opportunities were taken because of this conspiracy. What's worse, these people were denied a formative opportunity—an opportunity that does have significant implications in one's later life.

ties do not maintain precise caps on the number of students they admit, the amount of fluctuation is—as many know—limited year-to-year. No matter how you spin it, there are people whose opportunities were taken because of this conspiracy. What's worse, these people were denied a formative opportunity—an opportunity that does have significant implications in one's later life.

This conspiracy also sullied the reputations of remarkable educational institutions and lessened the trust that applicants have in the college admissions process. The college admissions process is already an anxiety-inducing one, due to both its volatility and difficulty. While it is naive to believe that college entrance is an equitable process (it isn't and will likely never be), the promise of a meritocracy gives many peace of mind. In depriving people of hope, Operation Varsity Blues may cause fewer individuals to apply to such institutions, preventing more people



Fourteen days isn't enough for rehabilitation; it isn't even enough to send her a message.

simply wonder how much rehabilitation and critical thought this kind of space will provoke.

To those who believe that Felicity Huffman's actions were within the scope of reason, the actions of a concerned mother, they were far more than that. Huffman knew this—she

But 14 days? Really? Even such crimes as illicit gambling and shoplifting can carry harsher sentences. Given the severity of her crime, Huffman's sentence—a far cry from the one year prosecutors asked for—seems more like a minor inconvenience than a legitimate punishment that pushes her to understand the impact she has had on the American educational system. Fourteen days isn't enough for rehabilitation; it isn't even enough to send her a message.

Huffman may also serve her sentence at a penitentiary *Forbes* listed as one of the “ten cushiest prisons” in the United States. There, she would have scheduled fitness sessions, board games and movies twice a day. I am not saying that Huffman should be put in a maximum-security prison, nor that prisons should mistreat convicts or deprive them of good living conditions. I

chose not to repeat her crime for her second daughter, and she confessed, “I thought to myself, ‘Turn around, turn around, turn around...To my eternal shame, I didn't.’”

In the end, I believe that the judiciary could have done better. The judiciary should have done better. While they did not need to impose a sentence even remotely close to one year, 14 days really does seem too lenient. As the prosecutor in this case, Erin Rosen said, “Most parents have the moral compass not to lie, but the defendant did not...This was intentional criminal conduct.” But the judiciary's response seems to suggest that such concerns have no relevance, not in the slightest, and that those who already have a bigger share of everything can take even more than they have, all at the expense of the poor.

This Is Not a Drill

Stephen McNulty '21

Columnist

“BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.”

On Jan. 13, 2018, every Hawaiian woke up to this message on their cell phones. What followed has been recorded by just about every social media outlet—teary-eyed phone calls to parents, children, siblings and spouses, panicked drivers rushing down the highway to get home before their obliteration, final prayers, recited from numb memory. The embrace of a mother and her son, ready to die together.

For all intents and purposes, the world should have ended in 1962. One more misstep, one more mishandled incident, one more tech glitch and civilisation as we know it would have ceased to exist.

Sure, it was a false alarm. But we should stop pretending that our stockpiles have saved humanity because it took an effective miracle to stop them from destroying it. For all intents and purposes, the world should have ended in 1962. One more misstep, one more mishandled inci-

dent, one more tech glitch and civilisation as we know it would have ceased to exist. Take it a step further. Replace Kennedy with Donald Trump. Could he have made it through the Cuban Missile Crisis?

Proponents of the current nuclear status quo, by some perverse logic, argue that therein lies the beauty—we come close to ending the world in fiery Armageddon, but we ultimately pull our wits together and stop it. To them, I issue the same challenge. Replace Kennedy with Trump. Replace Khrushchev with Kim Jong-Un.

And let's not pretend that there was only one near-nuclear disaster. In fact, a brief Wikipedia search pulls up eleven separate close calls since 1956. That, on average, is a near nuclear disaster every six years. Proponents of the current nuclear status quo, by some perverse logic, argue that therein lies the beauty—we come close to ending the world in fiery Armageddon, but we ultimately pull our wits together and stop it. To them, I issue the same challenge. Replace Kennedy with Trump. Replace Khrushchev with Kim Jong-Un.

The reality is that lack of mutually assured destruction, based on an unwavering belief in the peace-making nature of the bomb, rests on the perfection of our leaders and on their ability to never make mistakes. That premise is wrong. Our leaders, almost certainly, will make a mistake in a crisis of these proportions. It is only a matter of time before the “peace” fails and the world slips into conflict—nuclear conflict. We ought to ask ourselves whether we should be gambling with human civilisation on a clearly false premise.

And when that day comes, you will be sitting in your house, playing some game on your phone. That phone will receive a message: “BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.” First, you will panic, and then perhaps you will make some final phone calls. And then you will “seek immediate shelter,” as if your little bunker can spare you from the end of the world itself. And then you will realise that you were lied to.

I think we all agree that this is unacceptable. So, then, what can America do without jeopardising its own security today? Here's a list: (a) we could re-enter the INF treaty, (b) we could reduce our excessive military stockpiles to genuinely manageable levels and invest in improving their reaction times, (c) we could pledge to never be the ones that start a world-ending war and lobby the world to do the same, (d) we could negotiate bilateral stockpile reductions, as we've done before and (e) we could re-enter the

Iran nuclear deal. And in fact, we must do all of them—we've been waltzing on the edge of our own oblivion for far too long, telling ourselves that the world in arms will save itself from war.

I've debated this topic with several proponents of MAD, and every time, I am told that we simply have to accept the realities of a nuclearized world, because Russia and China and North Korea will

We ought to ask ourselves whether we should be gambling with human civilisation on a clearly false premise.

not yield their arsenals. And to clarify, I do not advocate the elimination of the American nuclear stockpile, for that very reason. But if it is starry-eyed to suggest that we can change, I can't imagine how to describe the lunacy of marching down the road of near-certain doom.

This is not a drill. It wasn't in 1962, and it isn't today. To close, I'd like you to see a verse from Do You Hear What I Hear?, a now famous Christmas song written at the height of the Cuban Missile Crisis: “said the King to the people everywhere // listen to what I say // pray for peace, people everywhere // listen to what I say.”

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK: BILLY MENKEN & JAKE GEHRON



JaQ Lai/The Exonian

By ANNE BRANDES AND
FELIX YEUNG
Staff Writers

With a tight 2-3 loss against Milton, jamborees and pre-season under their belts, the boys' varsity soccer team has already begun the season strong, led on and off the field by senior captains Billy Menken and Jake Gehron.

Menken began his career in soccer long before his Exeter days. In fact, he spent much of his time from age four and up playing with his brothers. "We played for our city team, Woodbury in Minnesota, and we had a great time together," he said. "It was special for me and my brothers."

Menken has been a powerful presence on the varsity team since his prep year. Over the past four seasons, he has continued to improve on the field, according to Varsity Soccer Coach AJ Cosgrove. "It has been clear that Billy was a good player since eighth grade when he sent in a video of him playing before attending Exeter," he said. "However, it was physically challenging for him on the field because he was very tiny. The biggest difference between his game now and when he showed up is that he's just so much stronger and really able to dictate the play."

Now, Menken is one of the strongest on the team. "He can play ninety minutes in the middle of the field, which is a testament to his fitness," Cosgrove said. "Since he trained hard this summer, he showed

up this fall in the best shape he's been in across all four years."

Jake Gehron, on the other hand, arrived to the Exeter team as a new lower. Due to consistent time and energy during his upper year, he has substantially improved his game, Cosgrove noted. "At first, his work ethic off the ball was not as strong as it needed to be," he said. "Then, last year, he made a big step up and was able to lead our team in scoring. He's probably got the best shot on the team."

In terms of technique, Gehron finds that "[he] always ended up being a playmaker and creating chances for my team." As a striker, he classifies himself as fast instead of big and bulky. "I like to get in behind the opposition's defense and have chances to score that way. I'm pretty good at finishing the ball, which is scoring goals."

Gehron appreciates his position because, as a new lower, he found the team to be his first home at Exeter. "I really had a good kickstart to my career here, just because of who was on the team," he said. "Pre-season my first year really helped me make new friends... You do everything as a team—you eat together, you sleep in the same dorm, you spend all [your] time together."

Looking forward to his final year, Gehron hopes to maintain the sense of community he found in the soccer team as a player. "Even now, we still eat dinner together every night," he said. "We still hang out, do homework together. It's re-

ally part of the whole deal here—family is everything for us."

To do this, Gehron and Menken maintain a number of traditions. "On Fridays, we wear silly outfits to practice. Last Friday, Billy wore a completely yellow outfit with volts, highlighter socks, highlighter shorts and then a golf polo," Gehron said. "We love it. That's always funny."

With the large amount of team experience shared between the two captains, Cosgrove believes that the captains will foster a positive team dynamic. "Over the course of the 18-game season, there are gonna be high points and low points," he said. "I will count on them to help create a good experience for the team—their legacy will be the culture of the team that they leave behind."

To ensure that his leadership style best suits the team, Gehron has also enrolled in Leadership in Sports, an Exeter Innovations course. "My chemistry teacher actually recommended it to me last year, and I'm taking it with a current [postgraduate] who is also on the team," he said. "I do it because I'm a captain. I should be a leader of the team, and I'm taking [the course] so that I can learn more about what that means."

Upper Matthew Chen believes that the two captains work well together, as they have beginning in preseason. "[Menken] and [Gehron] have obvious chemistry together; they're always on the same page with regards to what we want

to do as a team, and together they instill confidence into us as a team through their light-hearted nature and excellent play," Chen said.

Similarly, upper Matthew Ngai looks forward to a strong season. "I think we will have a great season—our team was very young last year and this year we have a mix of great soccer talent as well as physicality," he said. "Everyone knows their role in the team and I think we are expecting great things from ourselves this season. The captains have set the tone early on and they will be key to motivating us to keep going throughout all the games to come."

While the captains have different leadership styles, together they have a tangible positive influence on the team, lower Jonathan Jean-Baptiste explained. "Billy is a leader who leads by example and he always gives 100% both during practice and during the games," he said. "Jake is also a leader—when times get tough during games, you'll see him constantly working hard. He critiques players and gives advice in order to benefit the player along with the team."

Looking forward, Gehron is eager to see how he and Menken's leadership styles will complement each other. "We're kind of opposites in some ways, but it works," Gehron said, emphasizing Menken's intelligence and his own interpersonal skills. "Billy and I are really excited for the season—we're excited to represent our team and this community."

Football Edged Out By Taft



Senior Luke Tyner makes a last-minute attempt to tackle the ball.

Thomas Wang/The Exonian

By GINNY VAZQUEZ-AZPIRI
Contributing Writer

This Saturday, Big Red Football played its first game of the season against Connecticut's Taft School. After a close and demanding game, Exeter was defeated with a tight, five-point difference, and a final score of 33-28.

The game proved challenging, but Big Red football put up a strong fight and endurance. Head Coach Glennon shared his hopes for the first game. "The expectations were to have a great effort, play as a team and compete really hard," Glennon said. Assistant Coach Bond also added some highlights he witnessed throughout the night, "There were a lot of great plays throughout the game, but the biggest highlight for me was the fight our

team showed. They never put their heads down, they never gave up and they put themselves in a position to win."

Football had to overcome some hurdles throughout the night, but many players stayed tough under pressure and gave outstanding performances. Senior Gannon McCorkle went on to shout out his teammates for an impressive performance on the field, "Personally, I was taken aback by upper Wilson Muller's game; he made plays all over the field." Glennon spoke about the great work ethic and effort throughout the game. "Many highlights were made by many of the members of the team, especially being in a position to have a shot at winning the game with less than a minute left."

With the Taft game being so early in the season, the players are still adjusting

to playing together as a whole team for the first time. McCorkle talked about his impressions of the past game and hopes for the rest of the season, "Though we played well, there is a lot to improve on. Our offense still needs to work out some kinks and the guys need to become more comfortable in their positions." Coach Bond also shared his expectations going into the game Saturday, "I told the team they had what it takes to win, they just needed to believe that they could. I knew Taft would present some challenges that are difficult to prepare for, but our guys were ready."

Senior Ademide Kosoko also expressed the team's motivation for the start of their season, "I think our main goal as a team was to make a statement that night and to let all the other teams in the league

know that Exeter Football is back and better than ever." Reflecting on last week's game, McCorkle added, "Even though we lost I still walked off the field knowing that this is not the same old Exeter. I am very excited to see what is in store for us with the remainder of the season." According to Coach Glennon, Exeter Football has been training well before school began, with "hard and fast-paced" practices, starting as early as August 29th.

The 41-man-team still has a substantial amount of games for the rest of the season including more home games against competitors such as Phillips Andover and Suffield Academy in the near future. Exeter Football hopes to continue to thrive in their challenging environment and secure victories as the season progresses.



ExonianSports



Boys' Water Polo Dominates Double-Header

Bear Polo Opens Season with Wins Against Suffield and Hotchkiss



Senior captain Charlie Venci winds up for a shot.

Eva Carchidi/The Exonian

By EMILY KANG
Staff Writer

Big Red Boys' Varsity Water Polo (Bear Polo) made a statement on the road this past Saturday, bringing home two wins in a double header against Suffield and Hotchkiss. In the first game against Hotchkiss, Big Red reigned victorious with a final score of 16-4.

Going into the second game against Suffield, Exeter had unfinished business. In the past few years, Bear Polo has historically won against Suffield. However, the Tigers got the best of Big Red at the beginning of the 2018 season. This year, Exeter proved to be the better team, drowning Suffield with a final score of 12-9.

In the 2019 season, the team has welcomed three recruits: two preps and an upper. The efforts of these new players,

along with the hard work that many players put in over the summer, are already paying off. Bear Polo has a very strong team this year and the players are hyped to compete with the rest of the league. "I was excited to play these two teams because our squad improved a lot from last year to this year," said upper Adam Tuchler.

With the order of matches on Saturday, upper David Mancini viewed the Hotchkiss game as a warm up that set them up for a win in their more challenging game against Suffield. "The Hotchkiss game got us warmed up and excited for the Suffield game which was the real test," Mancini explained.

In the match against Suffield, Tuchler emphasized the pressure was high, because of Exeter's loss the year prior and their initial standing in the game. Suffield struck fast, claiming an early lead that stuck through the end of the first

half. However, the team was able to gain motivation when senior Michael Carbone scored two goals within a minute through penalties right at the start of the third quarter. "Our motivation dropped when we were losing to Suffield by two points, but Michael brought it back to us by scoring two 5-meter shots and leveling the playing field," Tuchler said.

A highlight for the team was Mancini's half court shot that went bar down (hit the bar and into the goal). "This last game [Mancini] had some pretty nice and strong shots from the middle of the pool from the halfway point that turned the game over for our win," Carbone said.

Prior to Mancini's goal, Exeter was tied with Suffield. But with Mancini's laser in the last four minutes of the fourth quarter, the team claimed their first lead of the game. "My half tank shot that went bar down got the crowd and our

team screaming at the top of their lungs," Mancini said. Following Mancini's goal, upper Osiris Russel-Delano and senior captain Charlie Venci each netted a goal to seal the win.

Coming out of a tight game with Suffield, Tuchler highlighted several factors that helped the team turn the tables in the second half of the game. "A few things that contributed to our success were our spirit, our preparation and most importantly our intensity in the pool," he said.

Despite the wins, the team is continuously looking to improve their play in order to keep up their winning streak. "We need to have a better combination of teamwork, which will only come with playing together more often, and conditioning, which we work on every practice," Carbone said. Bear Polo's next game will be another double header against WNH and Hopkins this Saturday.

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL TAKES DOWN TAFT

Big Red Brings Home Two Wins Against Taft and Hotchkiss

By SAVI KEIDEL
Staff Writer

The ball hurls over the net and toward the polished hardwood floor. The crowd gasps in anticipation, but co-captain and senior Joy Liu's forearms are there to intercept the ball. After another touch, Angelle Diamond, fellow co-captain and senior, runs up to the net to spike the ball onto the other side. Bang! The ball hits the floor. Point, Big Red.

Big Red Volleyball traveled to the Taft School this past weekend to compete against Taft and Hotchkiss. Going into the first game against Hotchkiss, Exeter had high hopes. The team dealt with the competition efficiently and swiftly, boasting 26 aces in one game alone. Senior and co-captain Mia Glinn highlighted upper Eliya Toledano's performance in the game: "We were able to get a major lead on Hotchkiss with Eliya's serving runs and aces."

After blowing through Hotchkiss, Big Red moved on to face-off against Taft. Taft was the number one seed in last year's postseason tournament. Upper Dylan O'Day noted that Taft "put up a fierce competition with a roaring student section but we [played] far better."

Glenn pointed out that Liu was a standout player during the games: "She does her job so amazingly, and we wouldn't be the team we are now without our calm and collective setter. She is so understanding and is able to take lots of feedback and make it happen." Glenn also highlighted that "Both our outside hitters [Senior] Annah [Shaheen] and Angelle [both had fantastic games, with multiple kills in both games." Toledano also noted, "Shaheen helped our team with a great ace, passing and hitting percentage."

Going into an important double-header, the team had to all be on the same

page mentally. Toledano said, "The mindset going in was ultimately being confident in our individual and team's ability. We all felt well-prepared and we knew that if we worked our hardest we could really prosper in our matches."

Glenn agreed and added, "Our game plan was to play our game and just focus on staying together as a team and lifting each other up." She continued to say that, at times, the sport can be frustrating, but "having each other on the court to help when the players are feeling down can make or break a game."

The team has only been together for a couple of weeks and already the players feel a good sense of bonding, prep Sofia Morais said. "No matter if you made a passing error or got a kill, teammates will be there to give you a high five and say 'Way to go.'" She went onto say that the captains have "done a great job of making sure everyone feels included and part of the team."

Toledano called the team dynamic "extraordinary," citing that "many teams don't maintain a strong bond in and out of season, but we are all immensely close outside of practice." She continued, "no matter in a game or during school, we are always honest and supportive with each other."

Even the bus rides are fun for the players where they get to hang out with the team while dancing to music and watching *The Office*. In fact, Toledano said that he is definitely looking forward to spending time with her team on the ride to Milton Academy.

Big Red hopes to keep their undefeated season alive this Wednesday as they face off against Milton, and if they compete anywhere close to how they played this past weekend, they'll have no problem adding another win to their stats.



Upper Brody Faliero serves the ball.

Otto Do/The Exonian